

## INTRODUCTION

The Office of Plant Industry Services in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2014-2015 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 758,419 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 5,321 tons or .7% above the 2013-2014 reported tonnage of 753,098 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2014-2015 was 554,568 tons which is a decrease of 7,098 tons or 1% below the farm use tonnage for 2013-2014 of 561,666. Non-farm use tonnage for 2014-2015 was 203,851 tons which is an increase of 12,419 tons or 6% above the 2013-2014 reported tonnage of 191,432.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 446,292 tons sold during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 1,359 tons or .3% below fiscal year 2013-2014 reported tonnage of 447,651.